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THE SOUTH RESPONSIBLE

In the telegraphic dispatches in The Daily Press yesterday was the declaration of Secretary of Treasury Shaw, that the South and the cotton planters in particular, was responsible for the present stringency in the money market in this country. The South is glad it is responsible for such a condition of affairs, for it proves beyond the shadow of a doubt that she has recovered herself, and that she is enjoying a prosperity such as she has never known since the Civil war. One of the marvels of the whole story of prosperity in this country is the progressiveness and recuperation of the South.

In this connection let us quote some figures showing what the South has done. Eleven Southern states seceded. The aggregate of their wealth in 1860 was a little more than \$5,000,000,000. Five years after the close of the war their wealth, based on an inflated currency, was less than \$3,000,000,000. Making a proper deduction for the inflation the figure might be placed at about \$2,250,000,000. The rest had been swept away by the war, and much of the values that were left were chiefly "on paper." The lands were here, but not much else except the Southern spirit and energy. The process of getting a new start was slow and painful, but the people of the south—women and men—went about the task as heroically as they had waged the war. And in this fight against poverty they have been splendidly successful.

The figures of the Census Bureau show that the increase in the wealth of the eleven secession states, between 1870 and 1904 was in round numbers \$10,320,000,000. In the four years, 1900 to 1904, the increase in these states was \$2,333,000,000 or more than the aggregate of their wealth five years after the end of the war. By states, the increases in wealth since 1870, were as follows, the figures representing millions. Virginia 878, North Carolina 562, South Carolina 377, Georgia 899, Florida 358, Tennessee 606, Alabama 764, Mississippi 481, Louisiana 709, Arkansas 584, Texas 2,667. The increase in Texas alone was nearly \$500,000,000 more than the aggregate of the wealth of the eleven states in 1870.

The figures quoted are not up to date, but they emphasize more strongly the position the South has attained in the commercial world. If it was in such a highly satisfactory condition when the census was taken, what would be the figures now when it is the South which has such a large amount of currency that it causes a stringency throughout the entire country, the people look for relief.

Probably never in the history of the world has a section of any country recuperated to such an extent as have the Southern states. The historians dwell upon the recovery of France after her war with Germany, but it is nothing compared to the example that is being cited. France did not labor under the disadvantages that the South had to

encounter on every hand. After her war, France had a government of her own, but that much can not be said of the South. For twenty years after the war the South was not governed by herself and the wonderful growth of this section of the nation must not be compared from the time hostilities ceased but from about the period beginning in 1885. That is only over a little over twenty years ago, and the record is nothing short of marvelous, and it is an inspiration for even greater and better things.

ROOSEVELT'S AMBITION

President Roosevelt has recently in no uncertain manner made it known that he meant what he said on election night, 1904, when he announced that he would not be a candidate for the presidency in 1908, and that he means to stick by that declaration of the letter. He has reiterated his purpose of retiring with even more emphasis than that indulged in at the time of his great triumph over Judge Parker, and this is due to the constantly recurring announcements of friends that he must run again because William J. Bryan is to be the democratic candidate and can beat any republican except Roosevelt.

When he completes his present term he will have had seven and a half years as President, and he is satisfied that this is enough for him and ought to be enough for the American people. So he is going to take all necessary steps to prevent another nomination coming to him and fully expects to retire on March 4, 1909.

Friends of the President says he finds office holding much more congenial since he put behind him all thought of being his own successor. He does not have to placate enemies or make friends with the view to controlling delegations, and he can take any position on public affairs without counting the cost in popularity. He has more freedom of action and can do exactly as he pleases without reference to its political effect.

There is little doubt that the President after he retires from the Presidency would like to represent New York in the Senate. He wants to have a hand in public affairs and does not propose to retire to the country and spend his days in seclusion. But those who fancy that the President is worrying about the Senatorship do not know him. He has not mentioned it in any of his recent conversations with New York politicians, and he is not consulting with reference to whether Senator Doherty or Senator Platt will resign to make room for him. He is simply going to take his chances, and if the Senatorship comes, all well and good.

THE ISLE OF PINES

The intimation that the question of the title of the Isle of Pines is soon to be settled once and for all, is most welcome to the people of this country. It does not particularly matter whether this is done by ratification of the now pending treaty or by the negotiation and ratification of a new treaty. The pending treaty seems to be ample for the purpose of safeguarding the rights of American residents in the island. If it is not, of course, it should be made so, or a new and more efficient convention should be made. What is supremely desirable is that Cuba's title to the island, or the essential union of the island with the rest of Cuba, shall be permanently and indisputably established at the earliest date possible.

As for the agitators and conspirators and speculators on the island who are working tooth and nail against such consummation, they appear to be deserving just about as little consideration as can be expressed by the infinitesimals with a minus sign. Whatever ground may at first existed for the contention that the island should belong to the United States has been more or less forfeited by the vicious insular propagandists. With the government of the United States engaged in a peculiarly delicate undertaking in Cuba, these people should have at least held their peace for a time, until the problem of Havana was settled.

Congress is not likely to confer upon the President the authority he asks to dismiss upon his own initiative, any officer of the army or navy whom he may think unworthy to remain in the service. Even in military nations an officer is dismissed from the service only upon trial and sentence by court martial. Congress should draw the line at this point.

Richmond is undergoing what a great many other cities have experienced after its ambition to become greater and bigger has been realized. It seems evident that when Richmond took in some of her surrounding territory there seemed

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to be only one thought and that was to increase the population of the Capital City. Apparently no thought was given to many details and the result is that, according to Richmond papers, the town is all tangled up by the many complex questions that are continually arising, and it is evident that it will be long time before many of them are settled, as the only place for their final determination will be in the courts.

There is considerably mockery in the fact that Mr. Hearst, after his reform posing, is one of the candidates called to account by the Association to Prevent Corrupt Practices at Elections for alleged failure to file a proper statement of his campaign expenses.

WITH THE PARAGRAPHERS

Andrew Carnegie has given a lake to Princeton university. Now we wish he'd give Richmond P. Hobson an ocean big enough to hold that navy he's stumping for.—Richmond Dispatch.

A vagrant was sold at auction in Kentucky the other day. We have plenty here that we would be glad to give away.—Washington Post.

Mme Gould, as she is now known, will not be allowed to take her children out of France without their father's consent, which can now be had for \$2.97.—Detroit Free Press.

District Attorney Jerome is said to still entertain plans for action in the insurance cases. They are certainly slow in developing.—Baltimore News.

They have captured a turtle four thousand years old off the Galapagos islands and don't know what to do with it. Isn't there a vacancy in the senate?—New York Herald.

According to a writer in the New York Times the man who has to employ a woman to manicure his nails is either a sport or a sissy. Still, nobody really cares how a man keeps his nails in order so long as he doesn't do it in public.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Secretary Bonaparte is asking for the privilege of buying armor plate abroad whenever the price at home is "exorbitant or unreasonable," but Mr. Bonaparte's party grows apologetic at the slightest hint of revising the tariff.—New York World.

It is a hopeful sign when the thought of the people the business and political world, and the pulpit all turn back to the simple tenets of the Deenlogue.—Schenectady Gazette.

With the Coast States, the colored population, and Bellamy Storer all saying harsh things about him at the same time, it is fortunate that he President can relieve his feelings by occasionally scolding congress.—Washington Post.

The Roosevelt-Storer incident will doubtless afford the country a good deal of amusement during the next few weeks. Both Mr. and Mrs. Storer are "live wires," and the President is something in that line himself.—Savannah News.

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THE WILD BALSAM APPLE.

Its Seed Holders Are Suggestive of Luce Purse.

In the brooks of autumn in certain places many little lacelike bags may be seen drifting along with the current or stranded by the shore. They are the inner coats or bodies of the wild balsam apples (Echinocystis lobata) which have dropped from the vines overhanging the stream and now float lightly away with their large seeds.

The green prickly bag of the balsam apple itself began to form in late summer, and by autumn it has withered and faded to a pale straw color. We may see the trailing vines with their shrunken pods decorating the brookside bushes far into the winter. The outer coat of the pod gradually rots away, and the inner bag or seed carrier is now released and exposed as a delicate, webby network of tough fibers. A thin skin or membrane fills up the space between these meshes, but that also falls away through the action of water and the winter storms until only the ball-like tissue of the "purse" is left. These little purses, being extremely light and buoyant, float far and wide over the submerged swamp lands in late autumn, carrying the seeds with them and so planting the vine in new situations. If, however, we take these seeds home with us and plant them there, Mother Earth will suitably reward us in the following year with vines of our own. They will spring up and spread rapidly until all the stone walls and garden fences are decorated with the tracery of their stems and star shaped leaves.—St. Nicholas.

GOLD AND THE SEA.

Why the Metal Is Shipped in Bars Rather Than in Coins.

"When the banks ship gold across the Atlantic," said a banker, "they prefer to ship it in bars rather than in gold. It loses less that way."

"It loses less?"
"Yes, sir. If \$1,000,000 in gold coins is shipped across the sea it is only \$999,800 on its arrival. It loses from twelve to fifteen ounces, about \$200, through abrasion, through knocking about with the motion of the waves. The sea makes gold lose weight, you see, the same as it does human beings. Gold bars lose less. In fine weather they will only lose about \$100 to each million. In the ugliest weather they don't lose over \$150, whereas in like conditions gold coins have been known to lose \$300. As gold shipments of \$10,000,000 often occur, to make these shipments in gold bars instead of gold coin is a saving of \$1,000 or more. It is odd to think when you cross in one of those gold laden ships that every wave that hits the boat clips off 10 to 15 cents from its golden cargo."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Cruel, but Necessary.

The Eskimos dread the winter and take early precautions to provide against famine. As the season approaches the great herds of reindeer migrate southward, and the walrus or the seal are all that remain for food. When an in wind is blowing the walrus is easily found on the outer edge of the ice packs. When it is blowing off the shore, however, the ice packs sail out to sea with the walruses on them. The natives then class their numbers in a list from the strongest to the weakest. The food that is in store is divided up, the weakest having the smallest quantity, the strongest the largest. Thus the mightiest hunters have strength to provide for the others. It is a cruel system, but nevertheless a necessary one. If all were weak, all would die; if some are strong, they will save many of the weak.

The Largest Pipe.

What is described as the largest pipe in the world is valued at \$8,000 and is counted as one of the most remarkable pieces of carving in existence. The pipe is made of one solid piece of meerschaum and represents the landing of Columbus. There are twenty-four figures in the scene, each one four inches high. The carver who executed this masterpiece is dead, and, as the demand for this sort of work has nearly died out, it is practically impossible to find a man to duplicate it.—London Telegraph.

Mouth Ulcers.

Little ulcers that appear in the mouth from time to time are exceedingly annoying and painful. An old fashioned household remedy is alum, the powder or crystals being applied to the yellow center. But this is a bitter, nasty dose. A physician has prescribed the use of a saturated solution of potassium chlorate, applied every two hours. "Saturated solution" means as much potassium chlorate as can be dissolved in a certain amount of water.

Lepers and the Law.

The Norman-English laws enacted that a leper had neither power to sue in any court nor to inherit property. During his lifetime he was permitted to enjoy the usufruct of any property in his possession at the time he was "found guilty," so to speak, of leprosy, but all rights of disposition over it he lost.

Autobiography of a Family Man.

I was born in New York and went to Boston to be born again. For the first twenty-one years of my life I was known as the son of my mother, for the next thirty as the husband of my wife and for the last ten years as the father of my daughter. I claim, therefore, to be a family man.—Independent.

'Tis not the size or grandeur of the structure, but the contentment that abides within, that insures a happy home.—Henry Stuphin.

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